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Statistical Commission
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, as far as possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution: a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session (New York, 26-29 February 2008)[1] and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2008/238. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed draft organization of work and a note on the state of preparation of documentation for the session are before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for its fortieth session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2009/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2009/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2009/CRP.1)

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24), chap. I., sect. A, draft decision.

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Programme review: climate change and official statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, containing a programme review of climate change related statistics. Based on a wide consultation process, it provides a review and analysis of user needs and challenges and defines the scope of climate change statistics in relation to official statistics. It explores the areas where official statistics can provide input and added value to the analysis of the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change and the related adaptation and mitigation measures. It makes specific recommendations for a work programme to mainstream climate change in official statistics at both the national and international levels. The Commission may wish to express its views on the substance of the report and provide recommendations for future work in this area.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the programme reviewer (Australia) on climate change and official statistics (E/CN.3/2009/2)

(b) Agricultural statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the working group on agricultural statistics led by the Statistical Office of the European Union. The report provides an overview of the main issues in agricultural statistics and a proposed framework for the strategic plan to improve national and international agricultural and rural statistics, which was discussed at an expert group meeting held in Washington, D.C., on 22 and 23 October 2008. The proposed plan identifies the key issues and challenges for agricultural statistics, the establishment of a core set of agricultural statistics that are comparable and relevant, methodologies to measure them and a plan on how to support international, regional and national organizations in developing those statistics as the standard guiding their activities. The Commission is invited to comment on the report and endorse the proposed course of action.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Statistical Office of the European Union (E/CN.3/2009/3)

(c) Energy statistics

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, the report of the Secretary-General containing a proposal to prepare the revised and updated International Recommendations for Energy Statistics. The proposal was drawn up in accordance with the decisions of the Commission at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions, wherein the Commission called for further development of official energy statistics in order to more effectively meet the ever-increasing demand for more detailed, consistent and timely energy data for policymaking, analysis of economic and environmental issues and market research. The Commission may wish to express its views on the actions already taken and proposed organization of the preparation process.

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics. The report contains the description of the Group activities in 2007-2008 including summaries of its second and third meetings and its future workplan. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics. The report describes activities of the Group in 2007-2008, including its work on the harmonization of definitions of energy products and flows and its plans for future activities. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on preparation of the international recommendations for energy statistics (E/CN.3/2009/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/5)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/6)

(d) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report describes progress made in the revision process of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and the extended mandate and governance structure of the Committee. The Commission is requested to express its views on the progress of work of the Committee.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2009/7)

(e) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the final draft of volume 2 (chaps. 18-29) of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, which will be submitted for adoption by the Commission. The report summarizes the global implementation strategy of the System of National Accounts developed by the Intersecretariat Working Group in consultation with countries and other stakeholders. The report also contains the outcome of the high-level forum for the long-term development of the System of National Accounts. The Commission is requested to adopt the submitted draft chapters and express its views on future work in national accounts.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2009/8)

(f) Social statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics. The report will contain the conclusions and recommendations of the expert group meeting on the scope and content of social statistics, held in New York, from 9 to 12 September 2008. The Commission may wish to review and adopt the recommendations, requesting the United Nations Statistics Division to carry out an exhaustive inventory of: (a) currently existing international methodological standards and guidelines in each area of social statistics; (b) the availability of social statistics at the global level, including measures of quality; and (c) ongoing statistical and methodological activities in social statistics at the international, regional, subnational and national levels.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2009/9)

(g) Health statistics

The report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics reviews activities that have taken place over the past year, including summaries of two meetings (Geneva, December 2007; and Shanghai, China, October 2008). At the December 2007 meeting, an agreement was reached to develop a framework for health statistics and associated standards that could be used to address identified problems in the area of health statistics. The meeting in Shanghai was devoted to work on the framework. The Commission may wish to express its views on the draft framework for health statistics and the Working Group's proposal for future work on the framework and associated documents.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/10)

(h) Education statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it a report of the Task Force on Education Statistics. The report contains a review of the main measurement frameworks in the field of education currently in use for the purpose of data collection at the international, regional or national levels, and of the impact they have on the production and use of statistics. The report also looks at coordination mechanisms among relevant agencies with respect to different stages of the statistical production and dissemination cycle. In addition, the report proposes possible ways to improve coordination, data collection and dissemination. The Commission may wish to express its views on the substance and the recommendations of the report and provide guidance on future directions.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Education Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/11)

(i) Employment statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) outlining the outcomes of the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians and summarizing actions taken by ILO, in consultation with others, in response to the decisions taken by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on the programme review report on employment statistics prepared by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It will describe those actions in terms of the identified priorities for the recommendations of the programme review, including a road map for their implementation, and the provision of support to national statistical systems for the production of employment statistics. The Commission is requested to express its views on the issues raised in the ILO report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization (E/CN.3/2009/12)

(j) Gender statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair on international indicators on violence against women. The report describes the process followed in reviewing the proposed set of indicators on violence against women and the criteria used in selecting the revised set of indicators. The Commission is requested to review and endorse the four sets of statistical indicators for measurement of violence against women and to submit them to the General Assembly, pursuant to Assembly resolution 61/143.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the indicators on violence against women (E/CN.3/2009/13)

(k) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Bank on behalf of the Interim Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme on the proposed governance arrangements and work programme for the next round of the Programme. The report sets out the proposed governance arrangements for the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme, which takes into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Friends of the Chair discussed at the thirty-ninth session. According to the report, detailed arrangements for the next round will be prepared once the Global Office has been established and other arrangements are in place. The Commission may wish to express its views on the proposed work programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank (E/CN.3/2009/14)

(l) Regional statistical development in Asia and the Pacific

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, which provides a brief overview of the recent progress in statistical development among countries in the Asia and Pacific region. It outlines key trends in the institutional and technical capacity development of national statistical systems and identifies the main challenges that are of region-wide importance and that require priority considerations by national Governments and the international development community, including bilateral and multilateral donors, and international, regional and subregional organizations. The Commission may wish to comment on the ongoing efforts towards the advancement of statistics development in the Asia and Pacific region.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/CN.3/2009/15)

(m) Development indicators

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General providing an assessment of data availability on Millennium Development Goals indicators, highlighting issues of data discrepancies between national and international sources and describing the work of the Inter-agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators to resolve them. It also provides an overview of the work by the Inter-agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators in the following areas: enhancing metadata and methodologies on Millennium Development Goals; defining strategies to improve data on Millennium Development Goals indicators in national and international sources; and preparing yearly analyses and reports on progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission is invited to comment on progress made by the Inter-agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and its future direction of work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2009/16)

4. Items for information

(a) Population and housing censuses

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses. The report contains a description of activities undertaken in response to the recommendation made by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session in regard to the implementation of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The activities include the conduct of expert group meetings and training workshops; dissemination of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses: Revision 2; and the development of a software package, CensusInfo, to help countries disseminate census data. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2009/17)

(b) Business registers

The Commission will have before it the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers summarizing recent developments and planned activities of the Wiesbaden Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (E/CN.3/2009/18)

(c) Information and communications technology statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the members of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development, providing an overview of progress made by the Partnership since 2007. The report provides a revised core list of information and communications technology (ICT) indicators covering the areas of ICT infrastructure and access; access to and use of ICT by households and individuals; use of ICT by businesses; ICT trade and the ICT producing sector; and ICT in education. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2009/19)

(d) Price statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics summarizing recent developments and planned activities of the Working Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2009/20)

(e) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it a report that summarizes the main conclusions of the eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, held in New York on 25 February 2008 and in Tunis on 11 and 12 September 2008. The report also provides the new terms of reference of the Committee, which had been reviewed and streamlined during its twelfth meeting. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2009/21)

(f) Statistical capacity-building

The Commission will have before it a report that provides an overview of the work of the United Nations Statistics Division to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity, in particular work undertaken within the following frameworks: the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the project aimed at improving the collation, availability and dissemination of data on the Millennium Development Goals; the development accounts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; and the United Nations Statistics Division regular programme for technical cooperation. The report is submitted to the Commission pursuant to a request of the Commission, at its thirty-seventh and thirty-ninth sessions, to report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/24, on strengthening statistical capacity. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

The Commission will also have before it a report prepared by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century. The report outlines efforts to promote the use of better statistics as a central part of the enabling environment for development progress, particularly through support to countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics, through advocacy and by encouraging donor collaboration in statistical support programmes. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2009/22)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2009/23)

(g) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange summarizing recent developments and planned activities of the Task Force. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange (E/CN.3/2009/24)

(h) Human settlements statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) summarizing the report of the peer review group meeting on slum estimations in April and June 2006. The report outlines efforts by the peer review group to address the concerns expressed by the Inter-agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and by the

Statistical Commission's "Friends of the Chair" on the Millennium Development Goal indicator regarding slum-dwellers. The report presents the work of UN-Habitat on providing a workable definition of "slum-dwellers" for statistical and policy analysis purposes. It also provides information on further research on the integration of national census data and data from geographical information systems. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/CN.3/2008/25)

(i) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

The item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51, with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and of the Council. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from Council resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions that are relevant to the work of the Commission and the actions taken or planned by the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2009/26)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities. It will also have before it the proposed programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2010-2011. The Commission is invited to approve the changes to the work programme for 2009 and to comment on the proposed programme for the biennium 2010-2011.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the proposed programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2010-2011 (E/CN.3/2009/27)

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-first session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-first session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2009-2012. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-first session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2009/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2009/28)

7. **Report of the Commission on its fortieth session**

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its fortieth session, which will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its fortieth session (E/CN.3/2008/L.__)